

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

INR-11 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-04

USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 DOTE-00 DRC-01 /107 W

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R 270535BPSEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4144

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASFILONDON

AMCONSUL MADRAS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 12925

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, IN

SUBJECT: UNION VIEWS OF ITS MISSION TO STUDY RAIL STRIKE

REF: STOCKHOLM 3555

1. ACCORDING TO NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDIAN RAILWAYMEN (NFIR)--

INTUC -- GENSEC KASHAV KULKARNI, IT WILL SEND ITS FACT FINDING

MISSION TO INDIA TO INVESTIGATE MAY RAIL STRIKE IN NOVEMBER.

KULKARNI BELIEVES FOLLOWING WILL BE MEMBERS:

A. FRITZ PRECHTL, PRESIDENT, ITF (AUSTRIA,

B. JACK JONES, GENSEC BRITISH TRANSPORT AND GENERAL WORKERS
UNION AND ITF VICE PRESIDENT,

C. PHILLIPP SEIBERT, PRESIDENT GERMAN RAILWAYMEN'S UNION AND
MEMBER ITF EXEC COMMITTEE,

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D. Y. KURAKAMI, PRESIDENT JAPANESE RAILWAYMEN'S UNION AND

MEMBER ITF EXEC COMMITTEE,
D. Y. KURAKAMI, PRESIDENT JAPANESE RAILWAYMEN'S UNION.
FORMER ALL INDIA RAILWAYMEN'S FEDERATION (AIRF) STAFFER,
HODA, WHO IS NOW IN ITF HEADQUARTERS STAFF WILL BE SECRETARY
FOR MISSION.

2. KULKARNI IS CONVINCED THAT ON BASIS COMPOSITION OF MISSION IT
IS CLEAR THAT IT HAS ALREADY DECIDED IN FAVOR OF AIRF AND

AGAINST GOI'S INTERVENTION IN MAY RAIL STRIKE. HE UNDERSTANDS
THAT AT ITF STOCKHOLM
CONGRESS IN AUGUST THE MISSION MEMBERS EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR
STRIKE,
AND THAT GERMAN AND JAPANESE UNIONS FINANCIALLY SUPPORTED AIRF.
WHILE EXPRESSING PLEASURE WITH AMERICAN DELEGATION'S POSITION
OPPOSING AIRF-SPONSORED RESOLUTION CONDEMNING COI, HE IMPLIED
THAT THIS IN PART DUE TO US DELEGATION'S CONCERN WITH EFFORTS
OF LEFTISTS TO ESTABLISH LIAISON BETWEEN ITF AND ITS COUNTER-
PART IN WFTU. AIRF PRESIDENT GEORGE FERNANDES HAD PREVIOUSLY
COMPLAINED THAT AMERICAN DELEGATION GAVE HIM COMPLETE COLD
SHOULDER FOLLOWING NFIR CAMPAIGN TO LABEL HIM A COMMUNIST.
(FOR BENEFIT OF NEW LABOR COUNSELOR, FERNANDES VOLUNTERED
THAT HE IS NOT ONE.)

3. KULKARNI STATED THAT ALTHOUGH ITF MISSION WAS IMPROPER INTER-
FERENCE IN INDIA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS, NFIR WOULD RESPOND
TO REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION. HE WAS NOT CERTAIN THAT MISSION
WOULD BE RECEIVED BY GOI.

4. POINTING OUT NEFARIOUSNESS OF COMMIES, KULKARNI SAID
THAT CPI WAS NOW PROVIDING RUMORS THAT THE U.S. HAD BEEN AMONG
THOSE FINANCIALLY SUPPORTING THE RAIL STRIKE. (THIS IS FIRST
TIME WE HAVE HEARD THAT ONE*)
SCHNEIDER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INVESTIGATIONS, LABOR RELATIONS, LABOR STRIKES, LABOR UNIONS, MEETING DELEGATIONS, RAIL TRANSPORTATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974NEWDE12925
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D740272-0760
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740984/aaaahoty.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STOCKHOLM 3555
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 MAR 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <21 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 971124
Subject: UNION VIEWS OF ITS MISSION TO STUDY RAIL STRIKE
TAGS: ELAB, IN, ITF-2
To: BOMBAY
BONN
MULTIPLE
STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005